

HOUSE BILL No. 1262

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 21-12-15; IC 21-18-14.

Synopsis: Return and complete grant. Requires the commission for higher education (commission), in consultation with postsecondary educational institutions, to adopt, not later than September 1, 2015, guidelines for postsecondary educational institutions concerning the administration of the return and complete project. Requires the commission, in collaboration with the postsecondary educational institutions, to compile, not later than September 1, 2015, information that includes the following: (1) The names of return and complete students. (2) The remaining state financial aid eligibility and current address of each return and complete student. Requires the commission, beginning in 2016, to annually report to the legislative council the number of return and complete students who have: (1) received a return and complete grant; and (2) earned an associate or baccalaureate degree or a technical certificate within the previous year. Establishes the return and complete grant fund to fund grants for eligible students who: (1) are Indiana residents; (2) earned some course credit from a postsecondary educational institution before January 1, 2014; (3) have not earned an associate or baccalaureate degree as of January 1, 2015; and (4) have not been enrolled in any postsecondary educational institutions since January 1, 2014. Establishes the eligibility requirements for the grant. Requires the commission to administer the grant as a financial aid award. Provides that: (1) the amount of a complete and return grant awarded may not be reduced because the student receives other scholarships or forms of financial aid; and (2) the amount of any other state financial aid received by a student may not be reduced because the student receives a return and complete grant.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

Dermody, Cox

January 13, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



First Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1262

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 21-12-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2015]:
4 **Chapter 15. Return and Complete Grant**
5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "return and complete student"**
6 **means an individual who:**
7 **(1) is an Indiana resident;**
8 **(2) earned course credit from a postsecondary educational**
9 **institution before January 1, 2014;**
10 **(3) has not earned an associate or baccalaureate degree as of**
11 **January 1, 2015; and**
12 **(4) has not been enrolled in any postsecondary educational**
13 **institution since January 1, 2014.**
14 **Sec. 2. (a) The return and complete grant fund is established to**
15 **fund grants for eligible return and complete students under this**



chapter.

(b) The fund consists of the following:

(1) Appropriations made by the general assembly.

(2) Gifts, grants, devises, or bequests made to the state to achieve the purposes of the fund.

(c) The commission shall administer the fund.

(d) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

(f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund but remains available to be used for the purpose of this chapter.

Sec. 3. A return and complete student may apply for a grant under this chapter if the return and complete student:

(1) enrolls in a postsecondary educational institution after January 1, 2015;

(2) enrolls in a degree or certificate program that:

(A) the individual intends to complete before January 1, 2020; and

(B) upon completion, the individual earns an associate or baccalaureate degree or a technical certificate;

(3) demonstrates to the commission that the student will, upon completion of the student's final courses, graduate with a degree or certificate at the end of the academic term for which the grant under this chapter is awarded; and

(4) meets any other criteria established by the commission.

Sec. 4. If a return and complete student meets the requirements under this chapter, the commission may approve awarding a grant under this chapter to the return and complete student:

(1) for the academic term in which the return and complete student will complete the student's course requirements for a degree or certificate; and

(2) in an amount determined by the commission based on availability of funds.

Sec. 5. The commission shall administer the grant as a financial aid award.

Sec. 6. (a) The amount of a grant awarded under this chapter may not be reduced because the student receives other scholarships or forms of financial aid.



(b) Except as otherwise provided under law, the amount of any other state financial aid received by a student may not be reduced because the student receives a grant under this chapter.

Sec. 7. This chapter expires January 1, 2020.

SECTION 2. IC 21-18-14 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015]:

Chapter 14. Return and Complete Project

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "return and complete student" has the meaning set forth in IC 21-12-15-1.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "return and complete project" means a project administered by the commission to encourage return and complete students to complete an associate or baccalaureate degree or a technical certificate by 2020.

Sec. 3. Not later than September 1, 2015, the commission, in consultation with postsecondary educational institutions, shall adopt guidelines for postsecondary educational institutions concerning the administration of the return and complete project, including the administration of grants under IC 21-12-15.

Sec. 4. In addition to grants under IC 21-12-15, a postsecondary educational institution may offer financial aid or tuition discounts that are exclusively for return and complete students.

Sec. 5. (a) Not later than September 1, 2015, the commission, in collaboration with the postsecondary educational institutions, shall compile information that includes the following:

- (1) The names of return and complete students.
- (2) The remaining state financial aid eligibility and current address of each return and complete student.

(b) The commission may not release confidential student record information to any individual or entity that is not permitted access to the record information under the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g et seq.).

Sec. 6. Beginning in 2016, the commission shall annually report to the legislative council, not later than December 15 of each year, the number of return and complete students who have:

- (1) received a grant under IC 21-12-15; and
- (2) earned an associate or baccalaureate degree or a technical certificate within the previous year.

The commission shall submit the report in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

Sec. 7. This chapter expires January 1, 2020.

